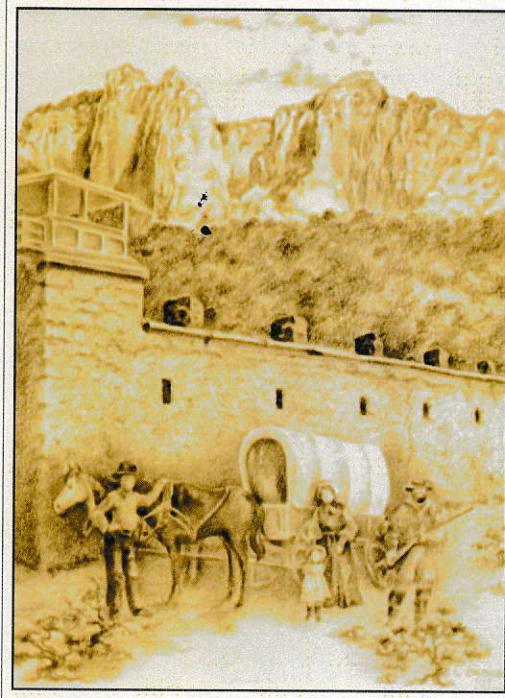


FORT HARMONY

ESTABLISHED MAY 20, 1854



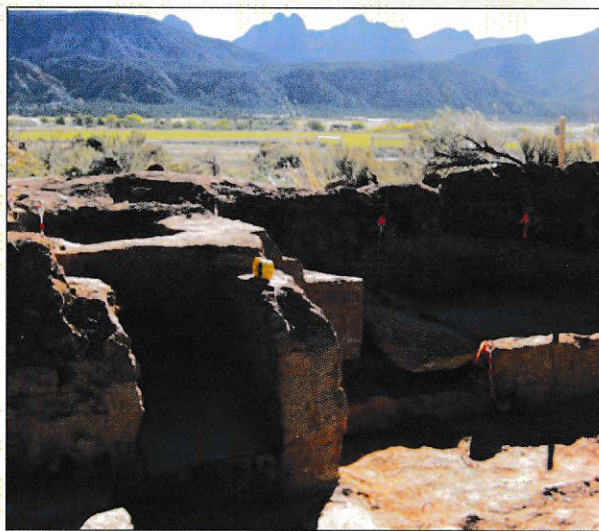
FOUNDING

In 1852, Brigham Young, President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, sent John D. Lee and 15 men from Parowan, south to "Sumato" a place inhabited by the Piautes. They built a wooden fort known as Harmony and farmed 160 acres of land at Ash Creek. However, this was not adequate so in 1854 President Young and Parley P. Pratt chose a new location for a settlement four miles north. Brigham Young marked the corners of what was to become Fort Harmony. The adobe fort was to be built immediately. Church architect, Truman O. Angell, sent specific drawings and instructions.

Fort Harmony Today...

ARCHAEOLOGY

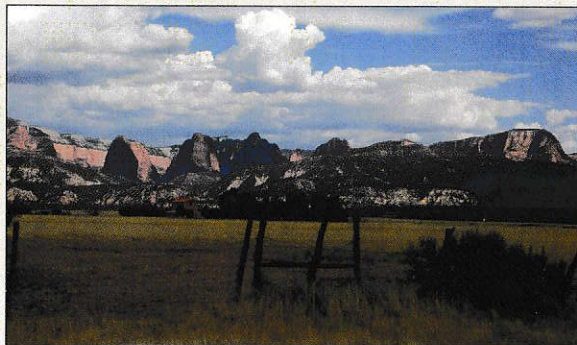
The fort site remained virtually untouched until 2006 when the owners of the land, the Schmutz family, donated the site to Washington County with the stipulation that the Fort Harmony site be fenced. The County cleaned the site and uncovered the foundations not realizing fragile historical information would be disturbed or lost.



Southwestern corner ~ one of the fort's rooms and fireplace

Locals intervened, stopping the activity at the site. Contact was made with the Utah State Historical Society inquiring what would be the best procedure to protect the area. An archaeological dig was recommended. Richard Talbot of the Office of Public Archaeology advised that the foundation be reburied until a dig could be conducted. The historical investigation of Fort Harmony was underway. A fence was put around the site to protect it.

In early 2007, Richard Talbot and others from the Office of Public Archaeology spent a week at the fort site. Several community volunteers, of all ages,



Harmony Valley and view of the Kolobs

and some members of the now established Fort Harmony Historical Society spent many hours assisting with tasks at the dig. It was enjoyable work because of the great discoveries that were made. A fireplace hearth and mantel was found as it probably was in the winter when the walls collapsed.

Only a small section of the Fort Harmony site was uncovered during this dig. It could take several years, many more hours and a lot funding to find all the treasures and discoveries at Fort Harmony.

PLANNING A GATHERING PLACE

We would like Fort Harmony to again be a place for people to gather. How brilliant it would be to walk the grounds of the fort in this alluring valley and learn about these untiring pioneers.



We have hopes of a garden to enjoy and reminisce in, a museum to share the lessons and stories of the past and a gathering place for families and friends to create new moments and memories that enrich their lives.

FORT HARMONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our mission is to promote the understanding and appreciation of Harmony Valley's history, to preserve, protect and enhance this historical heritage and insure proper utilization of historic resources for the benefit of the citizens of Harmony Valley, local businesses, the state of Utah, visitors and future generations.



FORT HARMONY DAYS

Once a year we have an event celebrating the spirit of the pioneers. Come see a production, join in the music, see how you do at the wheelbarrow races, or maybe you can win the pie eating contest. We always plan something for everyone in the family.

We invite you to gather with us in the month of May for some old-fashioned, pioneer type of fun!

*Carrying on
a spirit of community
bound together in
fellowship, peace and especially
in Harmony*

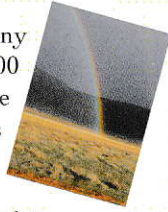


Check at fortharmony.org to see what we are planning for next Fort Harmony Days.

HISTORY

Fort Harmony was home for the pioneers from 1854 to 1862. Within this time about 300 individuals have been identified as living at the fort.

In February 1855, Fort Harmony was completed. The fort was 200 feet square. One-story dwellings were built on the eastern side with walls ten feet high. On the western side were two-story dwellings and walls sixteen feet high. A 100 foot well supplying culinary water was dug in the center of the fort. Gates to enter the fort stood on the northern and southern walls. The animals were kept in corrals to the south.



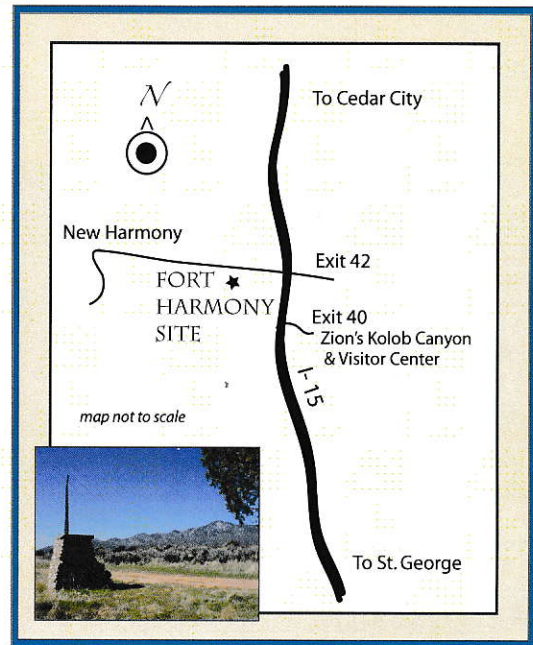
This valley was the birthplace of Washington County, which was created by territorial legislature. Fort Harmony served as the seat for the County from January 4, 1856 until 1859. The fort was also headquarters for the Southern Indian Mission.

Travelers used the fort as a resting stop before continuing their journey. Guests were fed, sheltered, and tended to by the residents of Fort Harmony. The fort was the last outpost before continuing into the West.

In January 1860, an earthquake cracked the walls. As a result, some of the walls had to be torn down. The winter of 1861 thru 1862 was harsh and ultimately devastating. Rain and snow fell almost constantly for 28 days. The sun refused to shine. The adobe clay used to build Fort Harmony crumbled and melted in the constant moisture. The people had to move from the fort to the Indian Mission Farm, today's Town of New Harmony, others moved to settle Kanarrville.



Artist's rendering



LOCATION

The Fort Harmony Site is located in Harmony Valley. In Southern Utah, between Cedar City and St. George, take the I-15 exit 42 and drive about one mile west on SR 144. On the south side of the road, by the library, you will see the gated site. Please call ahead to arrange for a personal tour at:

(435) 867-8422

"There is so much to share!"

Nearby site seeing:

Zion's Kolob Canyon and Visitor Center

Stop in at the Visitor Center to find out about the numerous hiking trails in the canyon. A five mile drive to the top provides exquisite views; even a place to enjoy a picnic.

WE GLADLY ACCEPT
YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS
AND SUPPORT

Please make checks payable to:

Fort Harmony Historical Society
2191 S. 2200 E. New Harmony ~ Utah 84757

Check us out on the web at fortharmony.org